



Superfund Proposed Plan Fact Sheet for

Reilly Tar site

Drift Aquifer, Northern Area

August 1992

This fact sheet summarizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) joint proposed cleanup plan for the Drift Aquifer portion of the Reilly Tar and Chemical site. This recommendation follows a complete investigation of ground water contamination in the Drift Aquifer and a study of feasible cleanup options.

What is the history of the site?

Between 1918 and 1972, Republic Creosote, a subsidiary of Reilly Tar and Chemical Corp., operated a coal-tar distillation and wood-preserving plant on an 80-acre site in St. Louis Park. The former site is north of Highway 7 and west of Louisiana Avenue. Oak Park Village condominiums are located on the northern portion of the site.

During those years, wastewater from the distillation process was disposed of in a series of ditches

emptying into what had been a swampy area south of the site. Spills and leaks also contaminated the surface soils, and tar-like materials were found deep in a water well on-site.

These activities contaminated the ground water in the area of the Reilly site with creosote and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Contamination was detected in public water supplies as early as 1974. The site has been the object of a state and federal Superfund investigation and cleanup since the

early 1980s. Although the immediate drinking-water problems have been resolved, ground water in the area is still contaminated.

In 1986, the former owners of the Reilly site, along with the City of St. Louis Park, signed a Consent Decree with the EPA and MPCA. Under this agreement, the parties responsible for the site are to continue investigating the extent of the problem and conduct necessary cleanup actions. The cleanup plan for a

THE MPCA WANTS YOUR OPINION

The MPCA is asking for public comments on this proposed plan between August 29 and September 28, 1992. The MPCA will present the plan at a public meeting on September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. Comments are welcome at the meeting, or by phone or mail during the above period. The meeting will be held at:

St. Louis Park City Hall
5005 Minnetonka Boulevard
New Brighton, Minnesota

For more information or to comment on the proposed plan, contact Ralph Pribble in the MPCA's Public Information Office, 296-7792.

part of the site, the Northern Area of the Drift Aquifer, is now ready for public comment.

What is meant by the "Drift Aquifer" and the "Northern Area?"

The Reilly site is underlain by five separate aquifers (layers of earth and porous rock containing ground water). These aquifers are stacked atop one another, separated by various confining layers, going down hundreds of feet below the surface. Most of them are contaminated to varying degrees in the area of the site. Because the ground water in each aquifer "behaves" differently, they are being addressed separately. Each aquifer has or will have its own cleanup plan, and the plan for the Northern Area of the Drift aquifer is now ready for public comment.

The Drift aquifer lies between 90 and 100 feet below the surface. There are no wells in the area that use the Drift for drinking water. But the contamination in this aquifer needs to be addressed because it has the potential to spread to other drinking water supplies and/or aquifers. The proposed plan detailed below is specifically intended to limit the further spread of contamination in an area called the Northern Area of the Drift Aquifer. The Northern Area is bordered by West 32nd

Street on the north, Alabama Avenue on the east, Highway 7 on the south, and Louisiana Avenue on the west.

What is the proposed plan for the Drift aquifer?

A pumpout well (designated as well W422) has been operating in the Drift aquifer since 1987 at the rate of 40 gallons per minute. This well acts to control the source of the contamination in the aquifer; that is, it limits the further spread of contaminated ground water. Water from this well is discharged directly to the sanitary sewer system. (The low levels of PAHs it contains are biodegradable in the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission's treatment plant, and the discharge is permitted by the MWCC). This well was specified in the Consent Decree. The decree also specified further study of the Northern Area. That study has been completed and a proposed cleanup plan now has been selected.

The study of the Northern Area concluded that W422 cannot be pumped at a rate sufficient to control ground water flow over the Northern Area. Therefore, the proposed plan for the Northern Area of the Drift is to continue using W422 for its intended purpose but to augment it with one or more additional pumping wells. One additional well will be installed at first;

after its performance is observed, the need for further wells will be evaluated.

Why was this plan chosen?

Remedies in Superfund cleanups are evaluated against a number of criteria. The proposed plan was carefully considered in light of the following criteria:

1. This remedy provides overall protection of human health and the environment by limiting the further spread of contamination within the aquifer.
2. Applicable local requirements are complied with in that the water will meet state surface-water criteria when discharged from the MWCC's treatment plant.
3. The toxicity, volume, and mobility of the contaminants in the aquifer will be effectively reduced over time by the pump-out.
4. The remedy will provide for long-term effectiveness and permanence by ensuring that the pump-out will continue as long as necessary to prevent the further spread of contamination in the aquifer.
5. The construction and implementation of this remedy presents no worker or community exposure, nor any adverse environmental impacts.

6. The technology for this remedy is proven, cost-effective, reliable, and easy to maintain.

7. The final criteria are state and community acceptance. The MPCA prefers this remedy, and now the community has an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed remedy before it becomes final.

What's the next step?

The MPCA is holding a 30-day public comment period on this proposed plan, from August 29th through September 28th, 1992. The comment period includes a public meeting (see box on first page) at which the MPCA will discuss the proposed plan. Following the public comment period, the MPCA will finalize the cleanup alternatives for the site after considering the comments received. The MPCA's response to comments will be available for review at the St. Louis Park Public Library, along with the Record of Decision for the site, which documents the reasons for this cleanup plan.

For more information

The complete reports of the investigation and study of response alternatives for the Northern Area are available for review at the MPCA's St. Paul headquarters. In addition, the EPA maintains an Information Repository containing these documents at the St. Louis Public Library. The library is located at 3240 Library Lane in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Requests for information or comments on the proposed cleanup plan should be addressed to:

Ralph Pribble
MPCA Public Information
Office
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-7792

Comments should be phoned in or postmarked no later than September 28, 1992.

